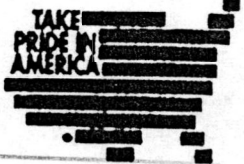




United States Department of the Interior

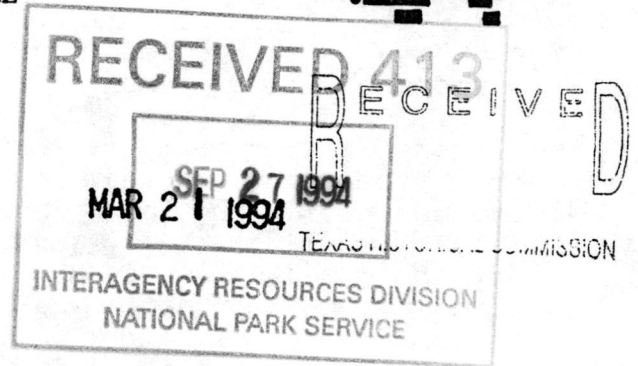


NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. Box 57127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H4215(424)

Mr. Richard G. Knight
The City Partnership
1331 Lamar, Suite 1331
Houston, Texas 77010



Re: The Pillot Building, 1012 Congress, Houston, Texas
Project Number: TX-87-00424
Taxpayer's Identification Number: 76-0117286

Dear Mr. Knight:

My review of your appeal of the decision of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, denying certification of the rehabilitation work on the property cited above has been concluded. The appeal was made in accordance with Department of the Interior regulations (36 CFR Part 67) governing certifications for Federal income tax incentives for historic preservation as specified in section 48(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

After careful review of the full record in this case, including the issues raised in your letter to me dated September 27, 1993, I have determined that the rehabilitation of The Pillot Building is not consistent with the historic character of the property, and that the project does not meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Therefore, the denial issued on August 31, 1993, by the Rocky Mountain Regional Office is hereby affirmed.

Built circa 1856, the Pillot Building was individually listed in the National Register of Historic places on June 13, 1974. The documentation filed with the National Register at that time cited the structure as "one of the earliest commercial structures still standing in Houston." The rehabilitation work undertaken on this certified historic structure was found by the regional office not to meet Standards 2, 5, and 6 of the Standards for Rehabilitation owing to the "removal of historic fabric," that led "to the permanent and irreversible loss of the building[']s historic integrity."

Mr. Richard C. Knight

2

Photographs submitted with the application support this assessment. They depict a ruin lacking roof, walls (except for portions of the first floor perimeter walls), and interior features. Virtually nothing remained except the cast iron storefronts and certain window components. From the photographic documentation, it is evident that it was not possible to dismantle the building piece by piece; rather, large portions collapsed, and most of the rest was torn down. Your letter notes that much of the material thus removed--namely, the brick, crumbled. At the end of the demolition phase, the Texas Historical Commission noted, "the Pillot Building no longer retained sufficient integrity to be considered a historic building." I concur with this opinion. The loss of historic fabric in this case is so drastic as to render certification of the rehabilitation impossible.

Your September 27, 1993, letter refers to Department of the Interior regulations, 36 CFR Part 67.7(d). This section discusses circumstances in which "it may be necessary to dismantle and rebuild portions of a certified historic structure...." Your letter cites at length the concluding paragraph of section 67.7(d):

Section 48(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 exempts certified historic structures from meeting the physical test for retention of external walls and internal structural framework specified therein for other rehabilitated buildings. Nevertheless, owners are cautioned that the Standards for Rehabilitation require retention of distinguishing historic materials of external and internal walls as well as structural systems. In limited instances, rehabilitations involving removal of existing external walls, i.e., external walls that detract from the historic character of the structure such as in the case of a nonsignificant later addition or walls that have lost their structural integrity due to deterioration, may be certified as meeting the Standards for Rehabilitation.

The Pillot Building certainly presents "walls that have lost their structural integrity due to deterioration..." (the portion of the regulation emphasized in your letter). However, this provision must be read in the context of the overall section, which treats those "limited cases" in which "it may be necessary to dismantle and rebuild portions of a certified historic structure." [Emphasis added.] The regulation does not

Mr. Richard C. Knight

3

contemplate the demolition of virtually an entire historic structure. Furthermore, it reminds owners that "the Standards for Rehabilitation require retention of distinguishing historic materials..." The rehabilitation of the Pillot Building conspicuously fails this minimum test for certification.

I am aware that this outcome will disappoint you. Although I appreciate the efforts of the City Partnership to preserve the Pillot Building over the past 10 years, the circumstances of the case leave me no other option. Only fragments from the historic building have survived, incorporated into what is, in essence, a new structure on both the interior and the exterior.

Moreover, the demolition is such that it calls into question the continued listing of the property in the National Register of Historic Places. Accordingly, by copy of this letter, I am requesting the Texas Historical Commission to re-evaluate the building's National Register status.

As Department of the Interior regulations state, my decision is the final administrative decision regarding rehabilitation certification. A copy of this decision will be provided to the Internal Revenue Service. Questions concerning specific tax consequences of this decision or interpretations of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 should be addressed to the appropriate office of the Internal Revenue Service.

Sincerely,

(Signed) H. Ward Jandl

H. Ward Jandl
Chief Appeals Officer
Cultural Resources

cc: /SHPO-TX
IRS



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2276

(TELEPHONE) 512-463-6100

(FAX) 512-463-6095

(RELAY TX) 1-800-735-2989 (TDD)

August 22, 1994

Mr. Richard G. Knight
The City Partnership
1331 Lamar, Suite 1331
Houston, TX 77010

RE: The Pillot Building (National Register, 1974)
1012 Congress
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Dear Mr. Knight:

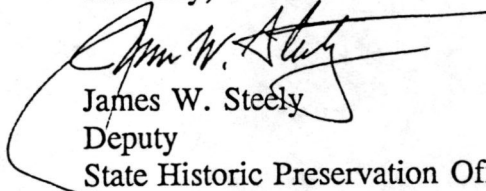
This letter is notification that we are recommending the above mentioned property be removed from the National Register of Historic Places.

Based on the comments and review of the National Park Service for the Tax Credit appeal (dated March 21, 1994), we concur that the building no longer retains significant integrity and therefore is ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

We will withhold notification to the National Park Service for 30 days to allow the current property owner a period of comment on the delisting.

If you have any questions, please contact the National Register Programs office at (512) 463-6094.

Sincerely,



James W. Steely
Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RECEIVED

AUG 30 1994

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1221 Lamar, Suite 546
Houston, Texas 77010
August 29, 1994

Mr. James W. Steely, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Office
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

Dear Mr. Steely:

I am in receipt of your letter of August 22, 1994, regarding the removal of the Pillot Building from the National Register of Historic Places. This was a most difficult project which took five years to accomplish at great cost. All work was performed with the knowledge and approval of the state office. I am extremely disheartened and disappointed.

This action is a powerful disincentive for me to pursue any more projects which might involve historic buildings. This project has been cited as an example of what can be done with historic buildings and has helped to encourage interest in their rescue. Such action as delisting the property would only tend to serve as an indication to others that such efforts might not be rewarded or appreciated. As I am one of only a small handful of people in the downtown area of Houston, Texas, who has actually been involved in rescuing a building and has actively pursued the possibility of work on other historic buildings in an exceptionally difficult market, I must question the end result of such action. To delist a building which has been previously approved by both State and National officials seems capricious and not in the best interest of the goals of these entities.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Knight

Richard G. Knight

RGK:ja





CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2276

(TELEPHONE) 512-463-6100

(FAX) 512-463-6095

(RELAY TX) 1-800-735-2989 (TDD)

13 September 1994

Mr. Richard G. Knight
The City Partnership
1221 Lamar, Suite 546
Houston, Texas 77010

Mr. Knight,

Thank you for your letter of 29 August expressing concern over removal of the Pillot Building, 1012 Congress in Houston, from the National Register of Historic Places. Reconstruction of the Pillot Building by your firm is a great accomplishment, and having visited the street-level restaurant I can say the work is impressive. Most importantly your building preserves a crucial scale and pedestrian accommodation in the Harris County Courthouse area.

However, the present building is clearly a reconstruction. And as a result of the National Park Service decision on your tax-credit application issued to you on 21 March 1994, we had little choice but to re-evaluate the building's National Register status.

My notes from a 16 December 1988 meeting--with Barry Moore, Doug Crossen, John Gabriel, Jean Knight, and several members of the THC staff--to discuss this project indicate that all parties agreed on the implication of reconstruction. The loss of the building's roof and collapse of several walls by that time necessitated an extensive project, begun in 1989, that resulted in the present incarnation of the Pillot Building.

The THC staff at that 1988 meeting expressed concern over the building's loss of "integrity," and warned that the Pillot Building no longer existed as when it was originally listed in the National Register. However, because your "lease with Harris County requires the Historical Commission's approval in order for us to proceed" [Crossen to THC, 11 September 1989] we agreed not to press the designation issue while the reconstruction project was under way.

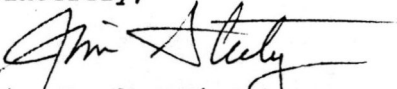
And there the building's National Register listing would have remained if you had not applied for federal investment tax credits. NPS chief appeals officer Ward Jandl's letter to you of 21 March explains why such an extensive reconstruction cannot meet approval for rehabilitation tax credits. Your application and appeal for tax credit approval led directly to the NPS request that we re-evaluate the building's National Register status.

We certainly regret that the Pillot Building collapsed into ruin in 1989 due to neglect, and we regret that subsequent circumstances now lead to formal removal from the National Register. But of course we congratulate you on making the entrepreneurial decision to reconstruct the Pillot Building into an attractive and viable enterprise. You have proven that business can thrive in downtown Houston utilizing pedestrian-scale, high-quality atmosphere, and this can only be a good thing to encourage the rehabilitation of many surviving historic buildings there.

JWS to RGK, 13.9.94, page 2

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this procedure. We hope to work with you in the future on the continued revitalization of downtown Houston.

Sincerely,

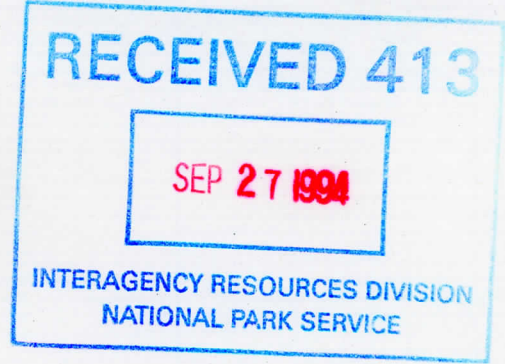


Jim Steely, Director
National Register Programs

cc: Margie Elliott, Greater Houston Preservation Alliance
Tim McAuliffe, Houston Market Square Main Street Project
Truett Latimer, Houston Museum of Natural Science
H. Ward Jandl, National Park Service
Gerron Hite, THC architect
Dwayne Jones, THC preservation planner ✓



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2276

(TELEPHONE) 512-463-6100

(FAX) 512-463-6095

(RELAY TX) 1-800-735-2989 (TDD)

September 16, 1994

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register Division/Interagency Resources
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

RE: Removal of Property from National Register of Historic Places

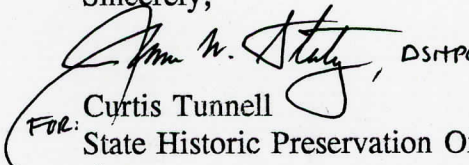
Dear Carol:

We recommend the following property be removed from the National Register listings for Texas as of September 1994:

Pillott Building (106 Congress, Houston, Harris County) The Pillott Building is a 3-story brick commercial building in downtown Houston. Listed in June 1974, new owners began rehabilitation work in 1989 in hopes of qualifying for tax credits. Unfortunately, the walls collapsed and afterwards the building was reconstructed. The SHPO and NPS denied certification for tax credits because of the reconstruction. After an appeal by the owners, the NPS still denied credits and recommended that the building be delisted. (see attached letter) We notified the owner of our intent to request delisting on August 22, 1994. He responded on August 29, 1994 (enclosed). Our response is attached.

Thank you for your consideration of these properties. If additional documentation is needed, please contact Dwayne Jones of the National Register Programs office at (512) 463-6094.

Sincerely,


For: Curtis Tunnell, DSITPO
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Pilot Building

74002073

Harris County

TEXAS

Removal Approved

Robert M. Lee 10/28/94

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: REMOVAL

PROPERTY NAME: Pillot Building

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Harris

DATE RECEIVED: 9/27/94
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/28/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/12/94
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/11/94

REFERENCE NUMBER: 74002073

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10/28/94 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This building collapsed and was reconstructed. Virtually nothing of the historic fabric remains except for the cast iron store fronts and certain window components.

RECOM. / CRITERIA Accept
REVIEWER Barbara A. Lee
DISCIPLINE History
DATE 10/28/94

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Texas
COUNTY: Harris
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 13 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Pillot Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
106 Congress

CITY OR TOWN:
Houston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
18--Barbara Jordan

STATE: **Texas** CODE: **048** COUNTY: **Harris** CODE: **201**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) hotel

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Bellesiotis

STREET AND NUMBER:
4614 Richmond

CITY OR TOWN:
Houston

STATE: **Texas** CODE: **048**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Harris County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Texas Historical Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1974** Federal State County Local

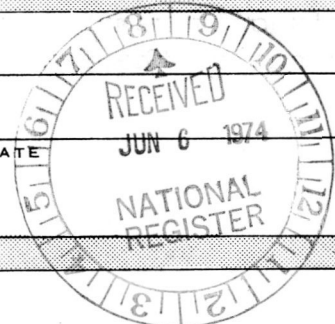
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Texas Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUN 13 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pillot Building, located on lot 5, block 32 of the original plat of Houston, is a three-story, brick, Greek Revival structure with cast iron detail. Block 32 is bounded by Fannin, Congress, Main and Preston streets and is located immediately west of the Courthouse Square. The Pillot is a rectangular structure encompassing all of lot 5 which is a corner lot fronting 50' on Fannin and 100' on Congress.

The Fannin street or east facade and Congress or north facade contain the only exterior ornamentation on the three-story commercial structure. On the Congress street first floor facade is an applied cast iron classical revival front with Corinthian piers separating each of the thirteen bays. The second and third floor windows facing both Fannin and Congress have cast iron segmental arched hood molds and cast iron sills with end brackets. The original windows were six over six lights, but were of longer and narrower proportions than the present replacements. The windows have recently been reduced in height and the upper third of the original openings have been enclosed with paneling.

Outside of the decorative cast iron, the principal ornamentation is the distinctive cornice. The three-story brick structure is crowned by a row of double dentils above a plain raised belt.

Built between 1857 and 1869, the Pillot Building is probably the oldest three-story commercial structure in Houston and a fine example of the Greek Revival style in commercial structures. The building is a well proportioned structure and with the exception of the reduction in window size, remains virtually unchanged. The building is further significant as Houston's only remaining example of an iron front building, as well as one of the few examples of cast iron architecture in Texas.

*Renovated
Revised
not
Greek
Revised
HCC
Aug 19-74*

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Shortly after the Texas War for Independence in 1836, John K. and Augustus C. Allen planned a new town on the Buffalo Bayou, fifty miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico. In 1837 the town was incorporated with a population of 1200 and served as the capital of the Republic of Texas until the seat of government was moved to Austin in 1839.

With the establishment of the Houston ship channel and the early arrival of the railroad, Houston soon became one of the state's most important commercial centers. The development of the ship channel began in 1840 and the port of Houston was established by a city ordinance in 1841. After the dredging and widening of the Buffalo Bayou in 1869, ship traffic in Houston greatly increased. An additional impetus to the commercial prosperity was the fact that there were already three railroads operating through Houston by the time of the Civil War.

The Pillot Building, located on lot 5, block 32, according to the original plat of the city, was built between 1857 and 1869 and is one of the earliest commercial structures still standing in Houston. This property was first occupied by a one-story frame building on the rear of lot five, built in 1839, and a hotel, the Alabama House, built c. 1841 on the remainder of the lot. In 1855 and 1856 Reading S. Blount, a man active in real estate trading and development in Houston, bought the two pieces of property and then resold the whole lot to Eugene Pillot in 1857 for a substantially higher price. It appears that Blount may have built the three-story brick commercial structure c. 1857 and then sold the property and building to Pillot. The building did exist with its iron front by 1869, for J.E. Wood selected a sketch of the structure as one of the few buildings to adorn his elaborate 1869 map of Houston. The Pillot family continued to own the structure until the mid-Twentieth century.

(See Continuation Sheet # 1)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harris County Heritage Society, Unpublished report prepared by members of the Heritage Society, 1974.

Webb, Walter Prescott, ed., The Handbook of Texas, (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1952).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

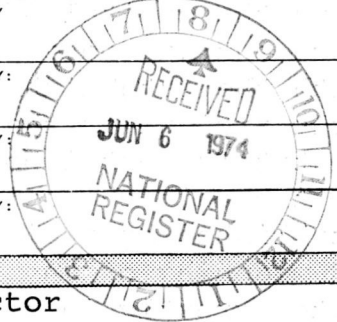
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		29° 45' 41"	95° 21' 35"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

15/271790
3294500

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **approx. 0.15 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Gary L. Hume, Project Director**
Marie D. Landon, Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Texas Historical Commission** DATE: **May 29, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station**

CITY OR TOWN: **Austin** STATE: **Texas** CODE: **048**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Truett Latimer

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

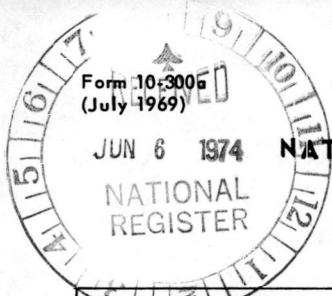
Ernest A. Connally
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Associate Director
Professional Services

Date: JUN 13 1974

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6.12.74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) # 1

STATE	
Texas	
COUNTY	
Harris	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 13 1974

(Number of entries)

8. Significance continued.

Eugene Pillot, born in France in 1820, came to Texas with his family in 1837 and became one of the first builder-contractors in Harris County. He lived for a short time in Houston, but soon moved to the country with his father and worked in the timber business. In addition to this profitable business, Pillot took up farming and became one of the leading planters of Harris County.

After returning to Houston with his family in 1868, Eugene Pillot became one of the largest property owners in the city, in addition to holding valuable properties in Galveston. Pillot was also active in early civic activities in Houston including his duties as member of the Board of Aldermen, Treasurer of Harris County, member of the City Council and a member of the Board of Public works.

It is possible Pillot embellished his building with the cast iron facade and details after the close of the Civil War. However, cast iron was available in the area by 1858. The Builders' Foundry in Philadelphia advertised in the Galveston Weekly News in 1858 that iron fronts and various ornamentation were available through a Galveston agent.

The Pillot Building has been occupied by a variety of tenants. Although it was designed mainly as an office building, the Pillot has also provided accommodations for commercial enterprises on the ground floor. Darling & Merriman (dry goods store) had their sign on the Fannin Street side of the building on the Wood Map sketch and they may have been early tenants. However, the building was particularly convenient for real estate and attorney's offices because the Harris County Courthouse was located directly across Fannin Street. Some early tenants included William A. Moore, tailor; Anslem H. Collins, attorney; T.J. Collins and T.J. Collins, Sr., real estate; James E. Fagen, real estate; Howe & Doughty, attorneys; Uvalde Burns, attorney; Dan H. Triplett, attorney; Fred C. Bouknight, real estate; and W.L. Stacy, medicine mfr. Presently the first floor is being used by commercial enterprises and the upper two floors serve as a hotel.

Congress was a busy street in the mid-nineteenth century and the Pillot Building on the corner of Congress and Fannin is one of the few structures remaining in the area to recall early history of Houston's business district. The Pillot Building is the only iron front building still standing in Houston and

(See Continuation Sheet # 2)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) # 2

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Harris	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 13 1974

(Number all entries)

8. Significance continued.

possibly the oldest three-story commercial structure in the city. The building has recently been threatened with destruction and concerned citizens of Houston are presently engaged in a campaign to save this early landmark.



WRITE-UP COMMENT
SHEET
(leave attached to nomination)

PROPERTY: Pillot Building - - - Texas

If there are comments (negative or positive) which will affect the write up, please indicate them below.

NAME: _____

LOCATION: _____

DESCRIPTION: _____

STYLE OR CULTURE: This is not Greek Revival as nomination says...

DATE AND INSTIGATOR (builder, architect, group, engineer, etc.): _____

PRESENT CONDITION (altered, covered, ruins, deteriorated--archeological): _____

SIGNIFICANCE (specify paragraph or line): _____

SURVEY RECORDS (is form correct?): _____

COMMENTS: _____

PROPERTY	Pillot Building		STATE	Texas	74002073 Harris
WORKING NUMBER	6.6.74.925				
TECH REVIEW	PHOTOS	4			
	MAPS	1			
CONTROL REVIEW	#12 Date is missing				cm 6.7. 74
HISTORIAN	more I + elaborate than Gr. Rev. otherwise OK				
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN					Accept w.R. Lee 6/10/74
ARCHAEOLOGIST					Accept 6/11/74 Hugund
REVIEW UNIT CHIEF					Accept Cole 6/12/74
BRANCH CHIEF					
KEEPER					Accept Hugund for Murray 6-12-74

National Register Write-up	Aug 12, 1974	Send-back	_____
Federal Register entry	August 6, 1974	Re-submit	_____
Entered			JUN 13 1974



Coca-Cola
THE BARBERS
FOOD & BEVERAGES

The Barbers

BAR-B-Q LINKS
STEAK & SEA FOOD
BAR-B-Q BEEF

CORNER BEEF
OPEN & PUBLIC
HAMBURGERS

CHILI
RESTAURANT
BEER

RESTAURANT

BEL-MAR
HOTEL
ROOMS 1300 & UP

NUDE
CLUB
Deanna

CONGRESS ST
ONE WAY

NO PARKING

NO PARKING



Coca-Cola

THE BARRISTERS INN
FOOD & BEVERAGES

The Barristers Inn

RESTAURANT

CARTER HOTEL

CLUB Deanna

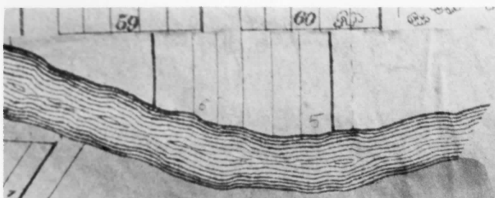
PANA

HOTEL

FORD

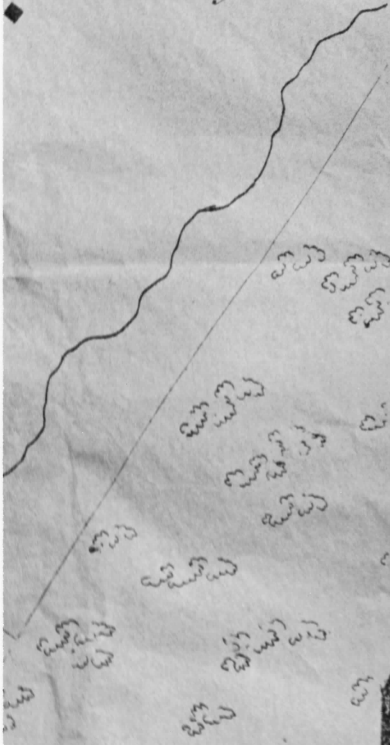
BOSES

PRESS



ST.

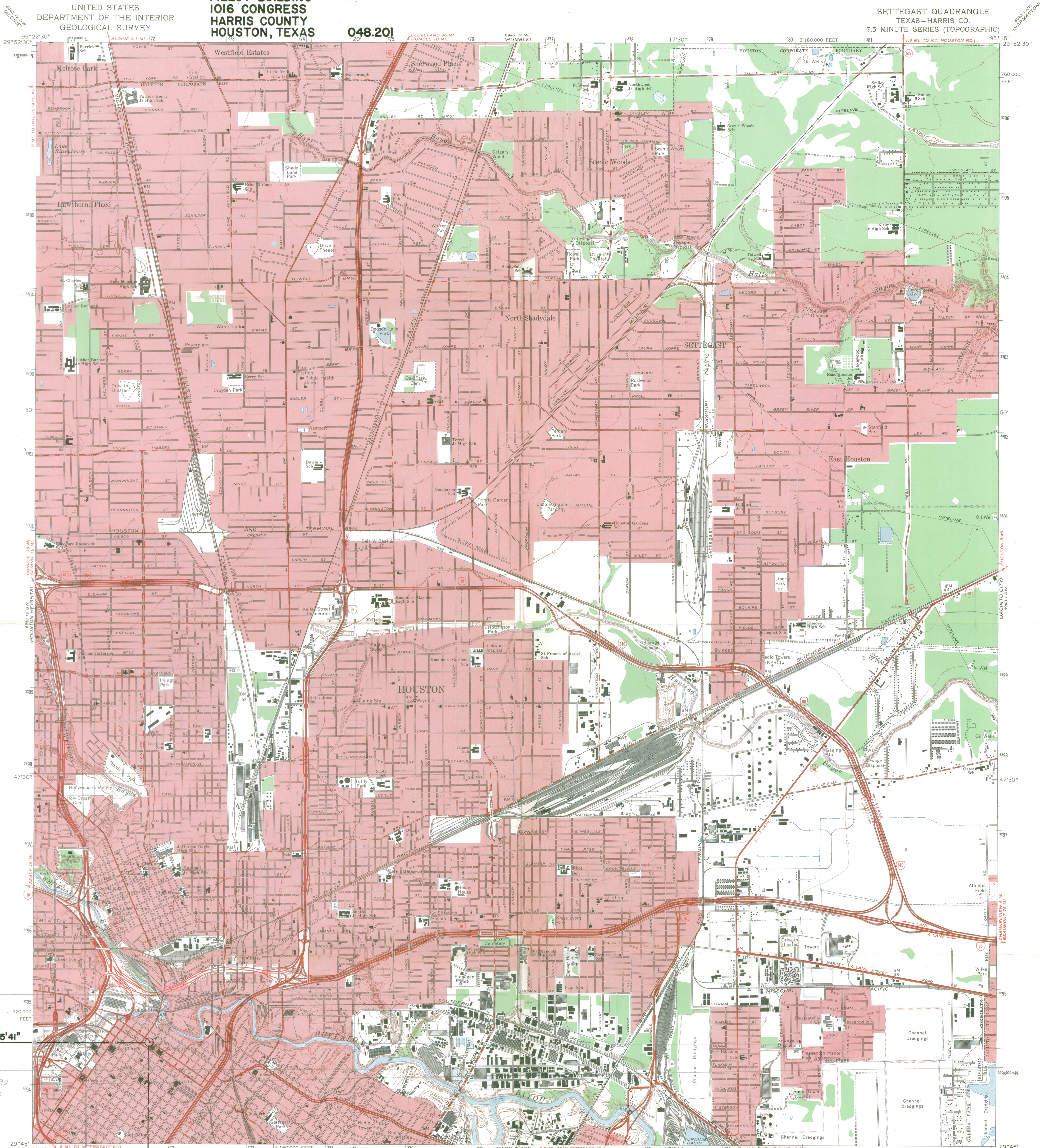
Houston City Mills



Purvis
D

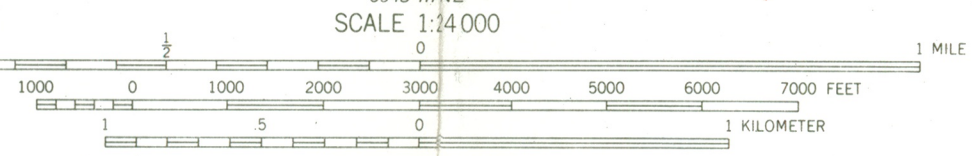
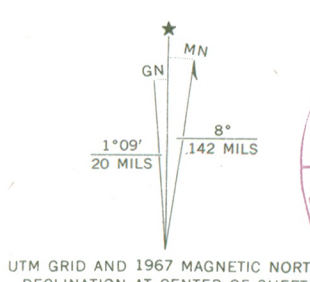


PILLOT BUILDING.
COR. FANNIN & CONGRESS STS.



15/271790
3294500

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, and USCE
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken
1966. Topography enlarged from 1:31 680-scale AMS map of Settegast
Quadrangle. Original map by planetable surveys 1943. Revised 1967
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum,
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:14,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS NEGLIGIBLE



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

SETTEGAST, TEX.
N2945—W9515/7.5

MAR 14 1974

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

2995-431

1967
AMS 6943 IV SE—SERIES V882



Texas Historical Commission
Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711
Truett Latimer
Executive Director

June 3, 1974



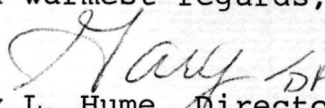
Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Carol:

Enclosed is the submission for the Pillot Building in Houston, Harris County. I feel this structure, along with the Burgheim Drug Building (nomination to follow in about two days) and the 1884 Cotton Exchange are the most important extant 19th century commercial structures in Houston. The Pillot Building and the Burgheim Drug Building have been the center of raging controversy in Houston and we have naturally become involved. The commissioner's Court, who wanted to remove Burgheim and Pillot for an enormous Harris County office complex gutting the old town section of Houston, have agreed that if the property can be nationally recognized as being worthy of preservation--i.e. National Register--by the 20th of June, the commissioners will preserve them.

I know how much you enjoy short fuses like this! Everything you can do to expedite their review will be greatly appreciated by us, the Harris County Heritage Society, and a great number of Houstonians.

With warmest regards,


Gary L. Hume, Director
National Register Programs
for Texas

GLH/dra
Enclosure

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered JUN 13 1974

Name

Location

Pilot Building

**Houston
Harris County**

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. Barbara C. Jordan
Regional Director, Southwest
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Post Office Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

PR MMott/row 6/17/74

Pilot Building

7402073

4 129 104

(Resource Name)

(Reference Number[s])

(Date form completed)

Harris

TX

Jedd

(County)

(State)

(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING _____ 2. REMOVED/ DEMOLISHED 3. NHL _____ 4. TR _____ 5. MRA _____ 6. OVER-SIZED _____ 7. NPS - _____ UNDOCUMENTED 8. DOE - _____ OWNER OBJECTION 9. RESTRICTED _____

EXPLANATION:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder (); Nomination (); Map(s) (); Photos ()
Available on: Microfiche (); Optical Disk ()

2. _____
(Cause for removal)

10 128 194
(Date Removed)

3. _____
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

1 1
(Date Designated)

4. _____
(If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

(TR or MRA Name)

5. _____
(If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. _____
(Location of oversize file)

7. _____
(Current source of partial documentation)

1 1
(Target Date)

- COMMENTS: _____
(Where found, or source of replacement)

1 1
(Date Found/Replaced)